

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 24070 01 OF 02 011704Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----034359 011710Z /44

R 011646Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5551  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24070

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CH, FR, VN  
SUBJ: FRENCH VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA,  
INCLUDING VISIT OF SRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER  
NGUYEN CO THACH TO FRANCE

REF: STATE 184093

1. SUMMARY. POLCOUNS AND EMBOFF CALLED ON QUAI DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA, JEAN GORY, JULY 31 TO  
DESCRIBE THE VIETNAMESE VISIT TO OUR MIA FACILITY IN  
HAWAII AND TO PRESENT US ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IN  
INDOCHINA (REFTEL). DURING A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS  
ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA, GORY GAVE US THE  
FRENCH READ-OUT OF SRV DEPUTY FONMIN NGUYEN CO THACH'S  
VISIT TO FRANCE, INCLUDING THACH'S REMARKS ON US/SRV  
RELATIONS, WHICH WERE FAIRLY UPBEAT. END SUMMARY  
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2. THACH'S VISIT: THACH SPENT 2 OR 3 DAYS IN PARIS  
AFTER HIS VISIT TO BONN, AND BEFORE PROCEEDING ON TO  
BELGADE. DURING THE ONE DAY OF SUBSTATIVE TALKS,  
THACH WAS RECEIVED BY SECRETARY OF STATE OLIVIER SITIRN,  
THE SECOND RANKING OFFICIAL IN THE MFA. ACCORKING TO  
GORY, MOST OF THE DISCUSSION TWITH TACH WAS CONFIRMED

TO BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE FRENCH SIDE ON THE STATUS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SRV, THACH REPLIED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HOPE TO MAKE PROGRESS WITH THE AMERICANS IN SEPTEMBER". ACCORDING TO THACH, THE VISIT TO THE MIA CENTER IN HAWAII WAS A VIETNAMESE "GESTURE" TO THE AMERICAN SIDE. THACH SAID THAT THE SRV DESIRES TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS, A SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT ON THE MIA ISSUE, AND "A U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO HELP HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR". GORY SAID THAT THE FRENCH SIDE DID NOT PICK UP ON THIS STATEMENT BY THACH TO ASK IF THE THREE ELEMENTS WERE LINKED. THE FRENCH ASKED NO FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SRV AND THE U.S., AND THE VIETNAMESE VOLUNTEERED NOTHING IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE STATEMENT. COMMENTING ON SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS, THACH, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, BLAMED THE CHINESE FOR ALL THE BILATERAL PROBLEMS; HE DESCRIBED THE TENSION BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM AS ONE WHICH WOULD CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME. IN GENERAL, GORY DESCRIBED THACH'S VISIT TO FRANCE AS LACKING IN ANYTHING NEW. GORY DID NOT FEEL THAT THACH SAID ANYTHING PRIVATELY TO THE FRENCH WHICH VARIED FROM THE KNOWN VIETNAMESE POSITION.

3. INDOCHINA TENSIONS AND THE SINO-SOVIET ANGLE:

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EXDIS

GORY BELIEVES THAT VIETNAM IS TRAINING CAMBODIANS WHO FLED TO VIETNAM AND THEN DISPATCHING THEM BACK TO CAMBODIA AS "RESISTANCE FIGHTERS", OR SETTLING THEM ALONG THE BORDER IN CAMBODIA. HE THINKS THAT VIETNAM HAS SOVIET BACKING IN ITS CAMPAIGN TO TOPPLE THE POL POT REGIME, BUT SUSPECTS THE SOVIETS ARE PUTTING SOME BRAKES ON HANOI SO AS NOT TO BRING THE CHINESE IN AND THREATEN A SINO-SOVIET CONFRONTATION. AS FOR PEKING, GORY DOES NOT THINK IT WOULD GO TO THE WALL TO PRESERVE THE CURRENT CAMBODIAN REGIME. HE FEELS THE CHINESE ARE RELAXED ABOUT THE VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE IN ASIA AND THE WEST: IN FACT, THEY MAY WELCOME IT AS MAKING HANOI LESS DEPENDENT ON MOSCOW.

4. RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND LAOS: GORY BLAMED LAOTIAN -- AND BY EXTENSION, POSSIBLY VIETNAMESE AND SOVIET -- DISTASTE FOR CONTINUED FRENCH INFLUENCE  
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(PRIMARILY CULTURAL) IN LAOS FOR THE DETERIORATION OF FRENCH RELATIONS WITH LAOS. ACCORDING TO GORY, THE LAOTIANS APPARENTLY FELT THERE WERE TOO MANY FRENCHMEN AND TOO MANY FRENCH AID PROJECTS IN LAOS; HENCE THE EXPULSION OF TWO FRENCH DIPLOMATS WHICH NATURALLY LED TO RETALIATORY ACTION IN PARIS. BY SEPTEMBER THERE WILL BE NO FRENCH AID OR COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN LAOS; THE FRENCH DOCTOR IN VIENTIANE IS LEAVING SOON. GORY EXPECTS HIM TO BE REPLACED BY A SOVIET OR EAST GERMAN DOCTOR.

5. AS FOOTNOTE TO ABOVE COMMENTS BY THACH ON US/SRV RELATIONS, LE MONDE ARTICLE OF AUGUST 1 REPORTS FOLLOWING EXCHANGE WITH SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH IN BELGRADE:

QUESTION: VIETNAM HAS MADE IT KNOWN THAT IT IS PREPARED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WITHOUT CONDITIONS. HAVE YOU RECEIVED A POSITIVE REPLY FROM THE U.S.?

ANSWER: VIETNAM HAS ALWAYS SHOWN GOOD FAITH  
IN THE NORMALIZATION OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.  
IN ORDER FOR THIS NORMALIZATION TO BE REALIZED, IT IS  
NECESSARY FOR BOTH SIDES TO SHOW GOOD FAITH. WE FEEL  
THE U.S. UNDERSTANDS THIS WELL. HARTMAN  
BT  
#4070

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